



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE ALBERTS
FIFTIETH DISTRICT

35 CORNFIELD POINT
WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT 06281
TELEPHONE
HOME: (860) 974-3663
CAPITOL: 1-800-842-1423
(860) 240-8700
EMAIL: Mike.Alberts@housegop.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
INSURANCE COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE
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Committee on Public Health Public Hearing Testimony

Raised House Bill Number 5446, AN ACT CONCERNING MASS GATHERINGS.

March 12, 2010

Good morning Chairmen Harris and Ritter, Ranking Members Debicella and Giegler and members of the Public Health Committee:

I am Representative Mike Alberts of Woodstock in Connecticut's 50th District.

I am here to testify in support of **Raised House Bill Number 5446, AAC Mass Gatherings**. This legislation, if passed, would allow organizations to apply for a waiver to the host municipality for certain community events under Connecticut General Statutes 19a-436; 19a-437; and 19a-438(a).

My hometown of Woodstock hosts a fair each Labor Day weekend that brings tens of thousands of visitors from across our state and other states. The Woodstock Fair has a proud tradition like so many other similar events to provide visitors and vendors a fun, safe environment to operate, promote our agricultural heritage, and sell food and other goods. This year marks its 150th anniversary.

The lowering of the duration of the hours of operation along with the lowering of the threshold of attendees that triggers the requirement of obtaining a mass event license will create more burdens on many of our local fairs and community events that have operated for generations. Let's provide a mechanism for our communities to exercise sound judgment.

I humbly request that this bill become effective upon passage.

I respectfully ask the Public Health Committee to approve this legislation. Thank you.

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